



GATEWAY
ZIMBABWE

CIRCLES TO
RE-IMAGINE
THE FUTURE

Session 1: **Beginning**

A JOURNEY OF RE-IMAGINING AND CO-CREATING THE FUTURE.

Working together in small teams across Zimbabwe.

Welcome to this simple and hopefully profound journey of coming together in community to support each other in connecting to new possibilities; to listen and deepen into trust and to imagine together based on what already is here as seeds of the future.

BEGINNING

When we set off we often come together because we have a shared sense of a call; something that draws us together - a sense that together we might be able to do something that alone is not possible.

It is important that when we first come together we connect more deeply to each other, to our dreams, and to what we care about. This can form the foundation for our journey. This first session will connect with our sense of possibility for the future and with the gifts and talents of each one of us on this journey. We will begin with a wide and deep outlook. Only thereafter will we zoom in and focus on the details of our project and undertaking in a second session/

This time in history is a time when everything is in flux. We don't know what tomorrow will hold or how we will build the future we long for. The old is falling apart; across the world this is so. More than ever, this is the time to listen to our longings, to trust our hearts, and to set out on a quest with others who share some of our questions and desires. In the Gateway we believe that whatever the question community is the answer.

It is time to set off together in community to build a healthy and sustainable future.



QUESTIONS FOR THE JOURNEY

1. What issues do you keep giving your attention and energy to? Which upset you? Which excite you?
2. Have you glimpsed or experienced a future that inspires and motivates you?
3. Who do you want to be for this world? What is the contribution you hope to make?
4. Are you willing to risk being changed by this journey?
5. We will explore some of these questions in the first step of our journey together

WHY CHANGE HAPPENS

Change happens because of people

People who discover they are creative and caring

People who know others like them, creative and caring

People who learn to trust themselves and everyone else

People who know that dreams can only manifest when shared

People who pour time and loving into creating

the places where ever more people,

no matter how oppressed or beaten down

will step forward and

confidently, predictably, miraculously

discover their true human spirits.

Deborah Frieze and Margaret Wheatley

SETTING OFF

As we set off we will make use of two simple but essential practices:

The **Circle** is a very simple and ancient practice with which humans have gathered since the beginning of time. It can support us in our thinking together but also in deepening our own clarity and ground as others listen and support us in our own thinking and meaning making.



The circle allows us to slow down, to speak from the heart and to listen more deeply to each other. It is not an event - it is a practice; a practice that we can nurture and develop together.

For this journey we suggest that our first circle process be an opportunity to listen more deeply to each one - to be able to share things we don't usually share, and to find what we each care about; listening for the common care and passion that brings us together.

This first circle is the founding or intention setting for your group.

Appreciative Inquiry is an approach that allows us to begin with the best of what is.

Appreciative Inquiry is an approach for generating forward movement that identifies the **best of 'what is'** to pursue dreams and possibilities of **'what could be.'**

Appreciative Inquiry is based on the assumption that in every community something works. Every single community has gifts, strengths and capacities.

The appreciative approach looks at what we do have and seeks to strengthen and expand that. Is the glass half full or half empty? What we focus on becomes our reality.

We know that people have more energy and confidence to journey to the future when they carry forward parts of the past - and that we should choose the best parts of the past.

We will integrate the appreciative approach as part of the first session so that as we set off we are building on our gifts and strengths.

We will connect these two simple processes to kick off our journey into reimagining the future.



SESSION ONE - BEGINNING

As host or hosting group we suggest the following simple structure as you begin together:

- 1. Intention and Welcome** - Initiator/host welcomes people and shares intention of the group and of this particular session
- 2. Check-In** - Inviting each participant to briefly check in: Who am I and why am I here?
- 3. Appreciative Inquiry to connect with seeds of the future:** Caller shares a brief summary of Appreciative Inquiry (You can use AI input from Gateway - insert link) and then invites people in trios to share:
 - i) Assuming that the future is already here in seed form: When have you glimpsed a future that inspires or motivates you? Find one or more moments in our community when you have been inspired and excited; when you have been proud to be from here; when something has worked really well - what was going on? What made it possible? Each little team takes time to listen to the stories of each person, ensuring taking the time to listen for what made the experience possible.
 - ii) In the same group - After listening to each person in your smaller group explore together: Thinking of these stories as seeds - what do they point to as possibilities for our future? If you have art materials each group can draw a picture showing some of the essences of what they have seen.

Each trio brings their answers, stories (and drawings if these were made) back to the whole together creating a picture of a possible future for our community.
- 4. Circle Check Out.** What we will be able to do is in direct relation to each person's gifts and contribution. It is time to hear from each one more deeply: In the circle allow each person to share -

i) **What are your gifts and passions?** What makes you come alive? Similar to the appreciative inquiry you can take a moment to think of moments when you have felt the most alive and fulfilled - what were you doing?

ii) **Drawing on this, what is the contribution you hope to make to our community?**

iii) Facilitator give people a moment to reflect on these and then invite them to answer the questions in the circle.

6. Closing with thanks and clarity on next meeting

EXAMPLE SESSION OUTLINE

Exact timing depends on how many people you have in your session. More people will need more time.

1. Welcome **(5-10 mins)**
2. Check In: Who am I and why am I here? **(10-15 mins)**
3. Appreciative inquiry in trios, including drawing exercise if possible. **(20-25 mins)**
4. Sharing from the trios in the circle - Conversation on what future vision is emerging **(15-20 mins)**
5. Check Out: What are my gifts and passions and what contribution do I hope to make to my community? **(20-30 mins)**
6. Closing - word of thanks - agreements for next meeting **(5-10 mins)**



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IT'S US AND IT'S NOW: WHATEVER THE QUESTION COMMUNITY IS THE ANSWER.